

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. A safety buckle, comprising:
 - a socket having a first surface and a second surface opposed to the first surface;
 - a catch adjoining the first surface and protruding away from the first surface;
 - a plug with a central arm for insertion into the socket between the first and second surfaces;
 - a latch on the central arm sized and positioned to cooperate with the catch when the plug is inserted into the socket;
 - a disengagement device cooperating with the central arm or the catch to disengage the latch and the catch upon actuation of the device; and
 - a symmetrically positioned latch or catch for providing an alternate engagement with the corresponding catch or latch, such that the socket and plug may be engaged independent of a relative orientation of the socket and plug.
2. The buckle according to claim 1, wherein the socket includes a second catch; and
 - the latch is a protrusion on the central arm.
3. The buckle according to claim 1, wherein the central arm includes a second latch for cooperating with the catch of the socket.
4. The buckle according to claim 1, further comprising two central arms, each having a latch suitable for cooperating with the catch of the female member.

5. The buckle according to claim 1, wherein the central arm further comprises a pair of latches, each of which being suitable for cooperating with the catch of the socket.

6. The buckle according to claim 1, wherein the catch further comprises a pair of openings through the first and second surfaces, the openings being sized and shaped to cooperate with a latch on the central arm of the plug, wherein the device is a button coupled to a lever operable to displace the latch to prevent cooperation between the latch and the opening.

7. The buckle according to claim 1, further comprising two central arms, each having a latch; and

two openings through the first and second surface for cooperating with the latches of the central arm.